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bark upon the voyage and trials of married life with the best wishes of all.

The Petrified Woman a Fake.

ALDERSON, W. VA., Jun. 13th, '93.

Editor Greenbrier Independent:

Please insert the following instructions for making petrified human bodies. This may be of interest to some of your readers, especially on the railroad. The main part of these instructions are not original but are taken from a Chicago paper. This paper says that there is a factory in California where petrified bodies are made and sold to those who have cheek enough to go on the road and exhibit them as genuine petrifactions.

To commence with, we must have clay morter, (such as make good brick will do.) Spread enough of this thirteen inches thick on a level floor, to make a bed for the subject that is to be reproduced in cement. On this bed of morter lay the body, face up, and if the

the same length of time you have the other half of your mould, which must now be left to dry, which will take from a week to ten days. After the moulds are well dried, polish and fit the edges together, and you are ready for business. To make cheap petrifactions, such as are used in country towns, round top cement and plaster of paris will do to fill your moulds. To avoid monotony in the looks of the figures use a different cement with marble dust or fine sand added. After the figure has had ample time to dry, remove it from the mould and touch up with sulphuric acid to give it an aged look.—Caution those who are to exhibit the figure not to let the people handle it, but tell them all they are to know about it. If the figure should crack from not having sand enough in the cement, tell the public that scientific men say, in time, the body will fall to pieces from exposure to the air. I neglected to say

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serted in the cement before it hardens. To do this the face of the mould should be separated from the body so that it can be removed to insert the teeth before the figure gets too hard. And here I would like to warn the public that it is not well to start out with a petrified body that has only two teeth, for two is not enough. The body should have at least four—they look better and don't give the fake away. Another thing which the demonstrator should avoid is telling the public that the petrifaction is silica, for silica is very hard and smooth, while our plaster woman is neither. Caution the exhibitor not to have too many certificates from prominent men, as he may over-do the thing and spoil the show. It is best not to give too much tent space to the certificates.

From these imperfect instructions I hope some enterprising business man may be able to start in our midst a factory for the manufacture of such fakes as are needed to gull our people out of their money.

Will some of your readers kindly furnish the public with instructions for making a sea serpent and a demon child for the next Fair?

McVeigh.

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